

2016 Utah Original Writing Competition Guidelines

Since 1958, the annual Utah Original Writing Competition has honored Utah writers with public recognition and cash prizes. Numerous awardees selected by our nationally recognized jurors have gone on to significant statewide and national acclaim. The awards are funded in part by the Utah State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. **Please read through all of these guidelines before submitting.**

RULES

- **DEADLINE:** Friday, June 24, 2016 at 5 p.m. Late manuscripts will not be accepted. Please enter early to avoid technical issues. Submissions will be accepted **online only**.
- **First-Book Categories:** Submissions included in categories A-D constitute a first book. Writers entering one of these categories cannot have a book published or accepted for publication in that category. However, authors can have a book published or accepted for publication in a category other than the one they wish to enter.
- **Previous Publication:** Acknowledgment of previously published work or previous performance in competitions should not be included on your manuscript. However, in categories A-D, if portions of the work have been published, as permitted (see details for each category below), indicate so when asked on the online application form. Self-published manuscripts which have not gone through a formal or peer-review process are eligible for submission.
- **Submission Specifications:**
 1. The judging is done blind. Do not include your name anywhere on your manuscripts or title page.
 2. Include the title or an abbreviation of the title on the bottom, right-hand corner of each page.
 3. Do not include acknowledgments or dedications in the manuscripts.
 4. Manuscripts must be uploaded in Microsoft Word or PDF format. We do not accept entries in any other word-processing programs.
 5. Use 12-point font and double-space all manuscripts.
Formatting guidelines must be followed as closely as possible. The only exceptions are in poetry categories, where formatting choices may be dictated by the form.
 6. Number pages, preferably at the top right-hand corner.
 7. Use the exact same title for your manuscript throughout the application process, including on the manuscript title page, in the document file name, and on the application form itself. This helps us keep track of your manuscript.

8. Pseudonyms may not be used. Legal names, spelled consistently throughout, must be used to submit to the competition.
- **Residency and Age Requirement:** Submitters must have a 70% physical presence in Utah for one year prior AND be a legal Utah resident for one year prior to submission and at time of submission. You must be age 18 or older to enter.
- **Entry Fees:** None.
- **Limits on Entries:** Writers are allowed to enter more than one category; however, only one entry per category per contestant is allowed. A manuscript cannot be entered in more than one category. Portions of a larger manuscript submitted in one category cannot be submitted in a second category. First- and second-prize winners are not eligible to enter that category the next year. In the case of alternating categories, first- and second-prize winners cannot enter the exact category they placed in until at least one round of competition in that category has taken place.
- **Judges' Decisions Are Final:** Judges have sole and final authority in evaluation of manuscripts. If, in the opinion of the judge, no manuscript entered in a category is of sufficient quality to merit an award, none will be given. The judges are not identified until after the winners have been announced. **Judges' comments will be provided for first prize and second prize only. Under no circumstances should a contestant contact a judge directly.** A contestant who does contact a judge may be disqualified. Honorable mentions may be selected at the judge's discretion; however, they offer no cash award.
- **Winning Manuscripts to Remain on File:** The manuscripts of the first- and second-prize winners in each category must remain on file with Utah Arts & Museums as part of its permanent collection. In the event a winning entry is later published, UA&M asks that you provide a signed copy of the work.
- **Rights:** Authors of winning entries retain all rights of publication.
- **Disqualification:** Failure to follow these guidelines may result in disqualification.

CATEGORIES

Category A: Novel

First prize: \$1,000

Second prize: \$500

Specifications: Fiction; minimum length: 50,000 words

No part of the manuscript can be published in book form or have been accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry. Work from the submission that has been excerpted on the Web, in journals or in an anthology is acceptable. **This is a first-book category.**

Category B: Creative Nonfiction Book

In Partnership with the [University of Utah Press](#)

NEW: This category will no longer alternate each year with Biography/Autobiography/History

First prize: \$1,000, and first option for publication by the U of U Press

Second prize: \$500

Specifications: Creative nonfiction, including personal essay collections, memoir, narrative nonfiction, biographies, autobiographies and histories; minimum length: 50,000 words

No part of the manuscript can be published in book form or have been accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry. Work from the submission that has been excerpted on the Web, in journals or in anthologies is acceptable. **This is a first-book category.**

Category C: Book-length Collection of Poetry

This category alternates each year with Book-length Collection of Stories

First prize: \$1,000

Second prize: \$500

Specifications: Minimum length 50 pages

No part of the manuscript can be published in book form or have been accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry. Poems that have been included in an anthology or that have appeared singly in a journal/magazine are eligible. **This is a first-book category.**

Category D: Children's Book

This category alternates each year with Young Adult Book

First prize: \$1,000

Second prize: \$500

Specifications: Fiction or nonfiction (general or biography), appealing to readers ages 6 through 11 (**this includes chapter books and middle grade books, but not picture books or beginning reader books**). Compilations of stories will be accepted. Maximum/Minimum length: none

No part of the manuscript can be published in book form or have been accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry. Individual stories from the collection included in an anthology are acceptable. **This is a first-book category.**

Category E: Poetry

First prize: \$300

Second prize: \$150

Specifications: A short collection of up to 10 poems for adults; maximum length: 1,000 lines (total)

The collection must have a title. No part of the collection can be published in any form except on the Web or have been accepted for publication at the time of entry.

Category F: Short Story

First prize: \$300

Second prize: \$150

Specifications: Fiction for adults; maximum length: 7,500 words

Story cannot be published, except on the Web, or have been accepted for publication at the time of entry.

Category G: Creative Nonfiction Essay

First prize: \$300

Second prize: \$150

Specifications: Creative nonfiction for adults, including personal essay and memoir; maximum length: 7,500 words

Creative nonfiction essay cannot be published, except on the Web, or have been accepted for publication at the time of entry.

TIMELINE**Monday, May 2, 2016:** Submission period opens. Submit online here:<http://utahdcc.force.com/public/OriginalWritingCompetition>**Friday, June 24, 2016:** Submissions due by 5 p.m. MDT (**all submissions must be made online**)**September 2016:** Winners and press notified**October/November 2016:** Awards presentation**QUESTIONS?**

Please contact Alyssa Hickman Grove, Literary Arts Program Manager

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